

# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Rail Safety and Carriers Division  
Rail Engineering Safety Branch  
Rail Crossings Engineering Section

Resolution SX-33  
Date: July 6, 2000

## **RESOLUTION**

RESOLUTION SX-33. GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO DEVIATE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 7.8 OF GENERAL ORDER 75-C BY MODIFYING THE SOUNDING OF BELLS AT THE AT GRADE CROSSING OF LINCOLN ROAD (PUC CROSSING NUMBER A-152.2) IN PLACER COUNTY.

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### **SUMMARY:**

By letter dated April 12, 2000, the residents of Gold Run, an unincorporated area in Placer County, requested an exemption from the provisions of Section 7.8 (warning aspect) of General Order 75-C by providing that the bells sound only during the initial warning and descent stage of the gates at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) at grade crossing at Lincoln Drive. This resolution authorizes the requested exemption.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C requires the constant ringing of bells at railroad/highway grade crossings when the warning devices are activated by passing trains. The residents living near the at grade crossing at Lincoln Drive in Placer County request authorization for the UPRR to modify the two standard PUC number 9 automatic gates such that the bells sound only during initial warning and descent stage of the gates due to the noise caused by the continuously ringing bells in the primarily residential area. However, the flashing red lights will continue to provide the necessary warning aspect while the gates are down and the bells are silent, thus assuring that the necessary vehicle safety is maintained.

Rail Safety and Carriers Division staff conclude that the proposal is a safe and reasonable alternative to the requirements for continuously ringing bells at Lincoln Drive. Also there is precedent for this request in that the Commission has granted similar requests to the Sacramento Regional Transit (Resolution Number SR-3).

This is an uncontested matter in which the resolution grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to PU Code Section 311 (g) (2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

**PROTESTS:**

There are no protests at this time. Union Pacific Railroad and the County of Placer support the proposal.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The residents of Gold Run, an unincorporated area of Placer County, request by letter dated April 12, 2000 the authority to modify the sounding of bells on the UPRR line at Lincoln Drive, PUC Crossing Number A-152.2.
2. Staff have reviewed the proposal and find that the request has merit and should be granted.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

Authorization be granted to deviate from the provisions of Section 7.8 of General Order 75-C so that the sounding of the bells occurs only during the initial warning and descent stage until the gates are in the down position for the grade crossing protection devices at Lincoln Road, PUC Crossing Number A-152.2.

This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular conference on July 6, 2000. The following Commissioners approved it:

/s/ WESLEY M. FRANKLIN

WESLEY M. FRANKLIN

Executive Director

LORETTA M. LYNCH

President

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

RICHARD A. BILAS

CARL W. WOOD

Commissioners